

## 28 To + infinitive (I want to go) or infinitive (I can go)

1 Look at this example:

*I want* to + INFINITIVE  
*to buy* some stamps.

We use **to do, to buy, to start** etc. (to + infinitive) after these verbs:

want	decide	} + to + INFINITIVE
agree	promise	
forget	offer	
hope	plan	
arrange	try	

*She agreed to lend him some money.*  
*He forgot to book the tickets.*  
*I'm hoping to get a new bike soon.*  
*I've arranged to play tennis tonight.*  
*They've decided to start a new company.*  
*You promised to help me.*  
*She offered to do the washing-up.*  
*We're planning to go away this weekend.*  
*He's trying to learn French.*

2 We can also say **want + someone + to**:  
*His parents want him to go to university.*  
*Do you want me to help you?*

3 Now look at this example:

*He can* INFINITIVE  
*speak* Spanish.

**Can** is a modal verb. We use **do, speak, see** etc. (infinitives) after a modal verb. Some of the most common modal verbs are:

will ('ll) should may  
might can could must } + INFINITIVE

*I'll see you soon.*  
*She won't agree.*  
*Where should I sit?*  
*We may go by train.*  
*It may not cost much.*  
*Can I park here?*  
*I couldn't hear her.*  
*We must pay now.*

4 We can use **make + someone + infinitive**, to mean 'cause' or 'force':

*The film made me cry.*  
(= It caused me to cry.)  
*They made us leave.*  
(= They forced us to leave.)

5 We can use **let + someone + infinitive**, to mean 'allow':

*She let me stay.* (= She allowed me to stay.)

### Practice

A Put the verbs in brackets ( ) into these sentences. Use an infinitive (*phone*) or **to + infinitive** (*to phone*).

- 0 You can't smoke (smoke) here. Smoking is not allowed in this building.
- 1 I'm sorry I forgot \_\_\_\_\_ (phone) you yesterday. I was very busy.
- 2 Don't worry. The exam may not \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very difficult.
- 3 My boss makes me \_\_\_\_\_ (work) very hard.
- 4 It's not a very good film. You won't \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoy) it.
- 5 She didn't want \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) any longer, so she left.
- 6 When are you planning \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) tonight?
- 7 She couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ (reply) because she didn't know what to say.
- 8 This kind of music makes me \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) good.
- 9 Our boss sometimes lets us \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) early.
- 10 I'm afraid I've forgotten \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) the map.
- 11 They might not \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) the letter until next week.

**B Complete each sentence so that it has the same meaning as the sentence in brackets.**

- 0 (I don't think it's a good idea to argue with him.)  
I don't think you should argue with him.
- 1 (I won't be able to come to the meeting on Friday.)  
I can't \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 (I'm meeting some friends tonight.)  
I've arranged \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 (Listen to what I'm telling you.)  
I want you \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 (It's important that you lock the door when you go out.)  
Don't forget \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 (Perhaps we'll go out for a meal this evening.)  
We may \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 (Allow me to pay for the meal.)  
Let \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 (I'd like to do a course in Art History.)  
I want \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 (He said, 'I'll pay the bill'.)  
He offered \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 (Should I sit in this chair?)  
Do you want me \_\_\_\_\_?
- 10 (His stories were very funny, and I laughed a lot.)  
His funny stories made \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 (Perhaps he'll phone you tomorrow.)  
He might \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 (It's possible that Tom won't be angry with you.)  
Tom might not \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 (Jane allowed me to drive her new car.)  
Jane let \_\_\_\_\_

**C Complete the conversation, using the verbs in brackets with or without *to*.**

- Charles: I want <sup>0</sup> to do \_\_\_\_\_ (do) something interesting this weekend. Can we  
<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (do) something together?
- Diana: Well, I've arranged <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on a trip to the coast with  
some friends. Do you want <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (come) with us?
- Charles: Yes, that sounds good. When are you planning <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) ?
- Diana: Well, we've decided <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (start) early in the morning tomorrow,  
and I've promised <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the others in my car.  
We're hoping <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (reach) the coast by lunchtime. So, you must  
<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) me here at 6.30 a.m.
- Charles: Okay, good. I won't <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late.